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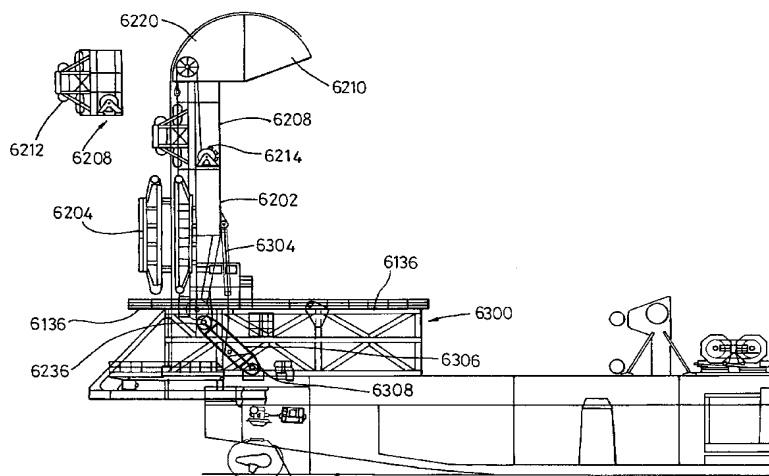
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR LAYING ELONGATE ARTICLES



(57) **Abstract:** This application describes apparatus (200, 6200, 8200) for laying elongate articles from a vessel (100) at sea. The apparatus comprising tensioning means (204, 6204, 8204) for controlling paying out of said articles along an axis of said tensioning means, and a structure tilttable (202, 6202, 8202) between upright and horizontal states. The apparatus is operable in a first mode, wherein the tensioning means is carried by said structure with its axis at an elevated angle and said structure for example also carries a radius controller (220, 6220, 8220) and a straightener (212, 6212, 8212), and in a second mode wherein the tensioning means is arranged with its axis substantially horizontal. The tilttable structure may be detachable from the tensioning means in the second mode, so as to assist in transferring in-line accessories overboard. Alternatively a separate A-frame may be provided for that purpose. This allows the same apparatus to be adapted for laying rigid and flexible pipes at different times, and/or in different depth ranges.

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